

## For Immediate Release

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### **“The 19th Annual Dragon Boat Festival and Races” “The 3rd Annual Dumpling Festival & Competition”**

Saturday & Sunday, April 29 & 30, 2017 - 10 am to 3 pm  
Festival Beach, northeast corner of Lady Bird Lake & IH35

### **Admission is FREE**

The 19th Annual Dragon Boat Festival and Races is coming to Austin on April 29 and 30, 2017. Come watch the spectacular 40-foot long boats racing to re-create a two-thousand year old Chinese tradition on Austin’s beautiful Lady Bird Lake. Teams of 22 members from Samsung, Tokyo Electron, Wells Fargo, HEB, GM, the Travis County Sheriff’s Office, 3M, UT students and many others, including teams from Houston and Dallas will battle it out during two days of fun, excitement, and camaraderie. A special team from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired will participate in the community race.

In addition to the races, this family-friendly, multi-cultural event offers different cultural music and dance performances, martial arts demonstrations, Taiko Drums, Lion Dance and a “Kids’ Zone” with special activities for children on Saturday, April 29th.

In addition to the Dragon Boat races, Sunday, April 30 will also feature the Annual Dumpling Festival & Competition. Savory and Sweet Dumplings with sticky rice wrapped in bamboo leaves are the traditional items eaten during the Dragon Boat Festival. Traditionally, each family adopts its own special recipe and ways to shape the dumplings to showcase the different regional characteristics. To encourage the transplant of this special culinary tradition to Austin, our 3rd Annual Dumpling Competition on Sunday April 30 is inviting professional and amateur culinary artists to enter the competition. There will be cash prizes for the winners and local celebrity chefs will be our judges.

The Opening Ceremony, “Dotting the Eyes of the Dragons” and the Cake Cutting event will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10 a.m.

## **Admission to the Festivals for both days is FREE!**

Asian festival foods and souvenirs will be available for purchase on the grounds.

Dragon Boat racing has grown from its origins in ancient China, and is now an international sport all over the world. In honor of this ancient tradition, we are pleased to announce that Chinese government official representatives, Austin City, Travis County and Texas State government leaders will be participating in the **“Dotting the Eyes of the Dragon”** ceremony prior to the start of the races. This colorful symbolic ceremony bestows the power of “vision” to the dragons so that they will fly on water in the races.

The Dragon Boat Festival and Races is organized by the Asian American Community Partnership and the Asian American Cultural Center. The Festival is partially funded by the City of Austin Economic Development/Cultural Arts Division and is supported by both public and private agencies and corporations.

This exciting and fun-filled family event is a good reminder that we can find the **simple joy** of life with family, neighbors and friends on a spring day at the beautiful Lady Bird Lake. For further information and the cultural program, please visit our website:

[www.asianamericanc.com](http://www.asianamericanc.com)

Parking space is limited. Please take METRO bus Rte 21 & 22. Get off at Bus Stop at Holly Street. Please follow parking and biking signs on site and avoid parking in the neighborhood.